DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY F Schmidt 4/10/87
RDS for XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S) July 8, 1980
EMBOSS CLASSIFIED MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED / RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED
EXCISIONS

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(183)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Ack Fm/NSC
CONGRESSIONAL
LIAISON

JUL 1980
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cc: Take

Dear Mr. President:

According to recent news reports, Saudi Arabia has asked to purchase from the United States additional military equipment related to the 1978 sale of 60 F-15's. It is our understanding that included in this request are such items as multiple ejection racks, conformal fuel tanks, KC-135 aerial refueling tankers, AIM 9-L air-to-air missiles, and AWACS. We would like to remind you of assurances given by your Administration concerning such military equipment and to register our firm opposition to the Saudi request.

When the proposed F-15 sale was debated more than two years ago, major concerns were voiced in Congress as to the aircraft's potential offensive capability. In response to these concerns, officials of your Administration provided the Congress with a series of assurances and understandings that emphasized the defensive role and restricted the potential offensive threat posed by the F-15's. In particular, a letter from Secretary Brown on May 9, 1978, to Senator John Sparkman, then Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stipulated the following:

- "The F-15 we plan to sell to Saudi Arabia will have the same configurations as the interceptor model approved for the United States Air Force."

- "The plane requested by Saudi Arabia will not be equipped with the special features that could give it additional range. Specifically, the planes will not have conformal fuel tanks ("fast packs"), i.e., auxiliary fuel tanks that conform to the body of the plane, and Saudi Arabian KC-130 tankers do not have equipment for air refueling of the F-15."

- "Saudi Arabia has not requested that the plane be outfitted with multiple ejection racks (MER 200) which would allow the plane to carry a substantial bomb load. The United States will not furnish such MER's."

The President
The White House

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. "Saudi Arabia has not requested, nor do we intend to sell any other systems or armaments that could increase the range or enhance the ground attack capability of the F-15."

In addition, in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 9, 1978, Secretary of Defense Brown was asked whether the United States was planning to provide the Saudis with an aerial refueling capacity for the F-15's. In response, Secretary Brown said: "The F-15 does have a receptacle, but the Saudis don't have an aerial refueling capability with a probe, so they will not be able to refuel the F-15."

Moreover, a separate letter was sent on February 16, 1978, from Assistant Secretary Bennet to Congressman Lee Hamilton in which the following statements were made concerning the AIM 9-L and AWACS:

. "The Saudi Air Force is not scheduled to get the AIM 9-L all-aspect sidewinder missile which will be carried on the United States Air Force F-15's."

. "An F-15 sale will not lead to the sale of E2C or E3A (AWACS). The F-15 has an excellent radar. Were the Saudis to purchase an aircraft with less effective radar than the F-15, they would be more than likely to seek an airborne radar system."

We feel that the sale of additional military equipment which would increase the range or otherwise enhance the offensive capability of the F-15's sold to Saudi Arabia would not be consistent with the above assurances and understandings given to the United States Congress. Therefore, we urge you to reject any such requests by Saudi Arabia for the sale of the additional weapons and equipment as reported in the press.

Sincerely,

Jacob K. Javits

Henry M. Jackson

Ted Stevens

Alan Cranston

Bob Packwood

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Richard G. Lugar

Richard Stone

Paul Laxalt

Paul S. Sarbanes

Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.

Frank Church

Robert Dole

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Gordon J. Humphrey

Dennis DeConcini

Rudy Boschwitz

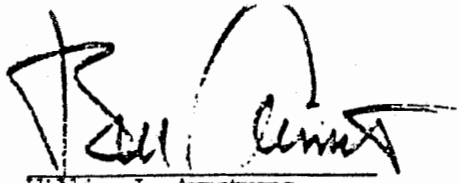
Robert Morgan

John C. Danforth

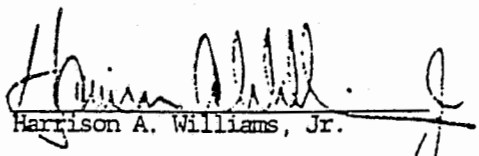
Warren G. Magnuson

John W. Warner

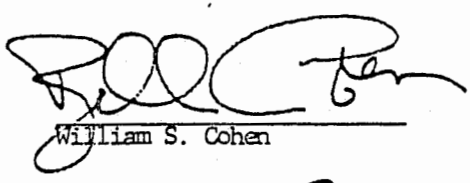
Thomas F. Eagleton



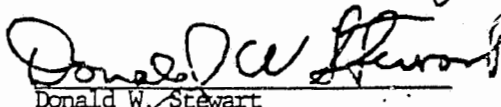
William L. Armstrong



Harrison A. Williams, Jr.

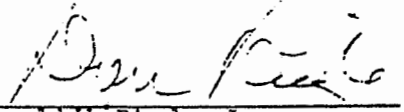


William S. Cohen

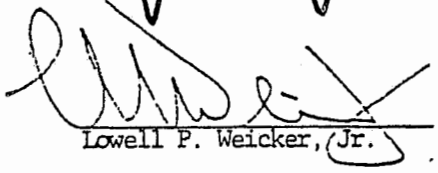


Donald W. Stewart

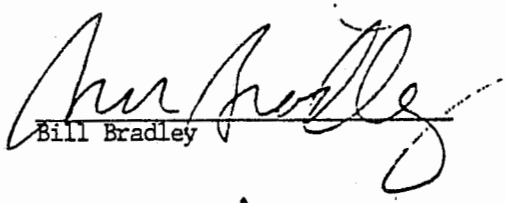
Roger W. Jepsen



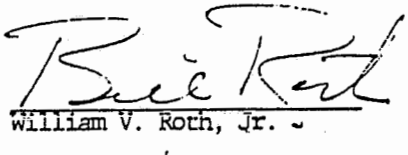
Donald W. Riegle, Jr.



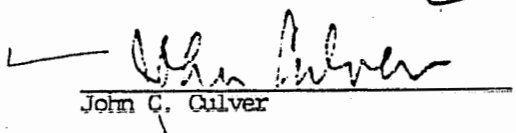
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.



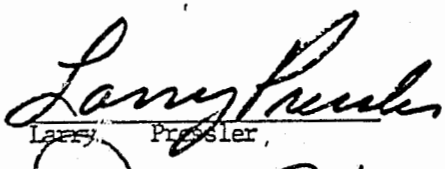
Bill Bradley



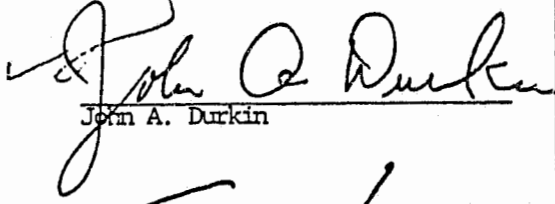
William V. Roth, Jr.



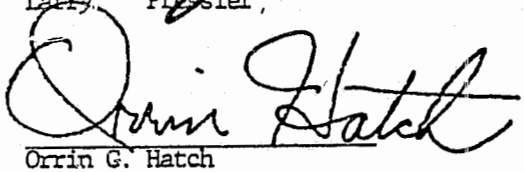
John C. Culver



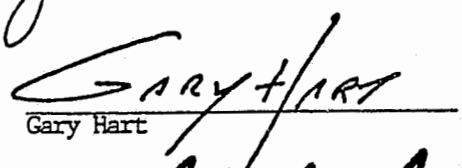
Larry Pressler



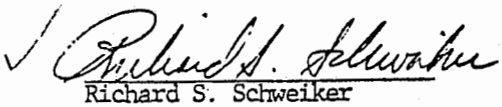
John A. Durkin



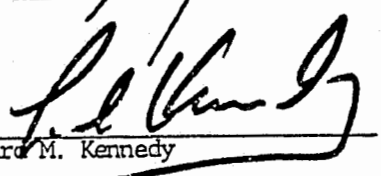
Orrin G. Hatch



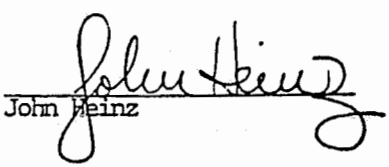
Gary Hart



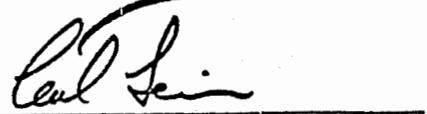
Richard S. Schweiker



Edward M. Kennedy



John Heinz



Carl Levin

Nancy Landon Kassebaum

Howard H. Baker, Jr.

Henry Bellmon

David Durenberger

Lawton Chiles

Alan K. Simpson

Pete V. Domenici

George S. McGovern

Howard M. Metzenbaum

Walter D. Huddleston

Howell Heflin

Gaylord Nelson

William Proxmire

Paul E. Tsongas

Patrick J. Leahy

Wendell H. Ford

Birch Bayh

Dale Bumpers

John H. Chafee

George J. Mitchell

David L. Boren

Max Baucus

Clairborne Pell

David Pryor

Edward Zorinsky

Jim Sasser

Spark M. Matsunaga

Daniel Inouye